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MAR 4 -- 1948
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production & Marketing Administration
Information Service
821 Market Street, Room 615
San Francisco 3, California

In cooperation with the Federal-
State Market News Service

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Sept. 5, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 2 -- Good fruit buys this week are Gravenstein apples, all varieties of grapes, and watermelons.

Honeydew and Persian melons, as well as small oranges (slightly higher), are fairly good buys.

Fair buys include figs, peaches and Bartlett pears.

Grapefruit and oranges are higher, while lemons remain high.

Among things vegetable, we find that spinach has edged its way down in price to gain entrance into the good-buy class, along with last week's foursome of cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes.

Snap beans, cauliflower, corn, and celery are low enough in price this week to make the fair-buy class, where mushrooms, both hard and soft squash, and sweet potatoes are to be found.

Artichokes, lettuce, onions, and potatoes are all a little too high priced to be called a fair buy.

Cabbage remains scarce and high, but a few Brussels sprouts are beginning to arrive on the market.

Livestock values and meat prices are on an upward trend this week. Generally, demand is broad. Mid-Western offerings of beef were light this past week, and prices are $1.00 higher on practically all grades. Supplies of veal and calf are ample, with quality on calf carcasses mainly Good, while the bulk of veal is of Commercial grade. A very broad demand for lamb is daily clearing supplies that are available in all four grades (Choice, Good, Commercial and Utility). Locally, there is a moderate demand for ewe mutton. Pork is in broad demand at prices $2.00 higher on fresh carcasses. Smoked hams and bacon are also in broad demand, with prices erratically $4.00 to $6.00 higher on hams. Smoked bacon is up $6.50 to $8.00.

Butter is higher than last week. Grade A (92-Score) is up 2 cents at 82 cents per pound, while Grade B (90-Score) is 3½ cents higher at 75 cents per pound. Reason -- production for the country as a whole is at record low levels and reserves are light, while at San Francisco costs are higher for moving Midwestern butter into this market.

Top-grade eggs are in lighter supply because of warm weather but are in good demand, with the result that prices are higher. Lower grades are in less demand and unchanged in price. Grade "A" Large eggs are quoted 2 cents higher than last week at 68 to 69½ cents per dozen; Mediums are 1 to 3 cents higher at 63 to 65½ cents per dozen. Grade "A" Small eggs are unchanged at 44 to 46½ cents per dozen, as are Grade "B" Large eggs at 54 to 56½ cents per dozen.

On the poultry market, an expected improved demand for holiday buying resulted in prices going up one cent per pound on both live and dressed fryers, 2 to 3 cents per pound on liveweight roasters, and 1 to 2 cents per pound on dressed roasters. But Leghorn fowl dropped in price, as supplies are liberal and demand is slow. Lightweight Leghorn fowl is down 2 to 3 cents on live weights and 4 to 5 cents lower on dressed weights; the heavy Leghorns are 1 to 2 cents per pound lower alive and 2 cents lower dressed. All other classes are unchanged in price from last week.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Sept. 12, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 9 —— Small oranges and all varieties of grapes are best buys this week.

Apples are only a fair buy now, as there are fewer Gravensteins available and the other varieties, such as Delicious and Jonathan, are still fairly high priced. Other fair buys include cantaloups, Persian melons, peaches, Bartlett pears, and watermelons.

Large oranges and grapefruit are higher.

A few pomegranates and persimmons are now in the market.

Two favorites for the tossed salad -- cucumbers and peppers -- are best buys this week, along with all types of squash.

Fair buys are quite numerous and include: snap beans, corn, eggplant, cauliflower, celery, mushrooms, tomatoes, and sweet potatoes.

Artichokes and carrots are rather high. Cabbage is still high, although down a little from last week. And potatoes, lettuce, and onions all remain too high in price for a fair buy.

Meat slaughter this past week was generally lighter because of the Labor Day holiday. For the most part, the trade experienced a somewhat above average holiday business, so that there was a fairly broad demand for all classes of meats and prices held steady to strong. As for quality, steer and heifer beef was mostly of Good and Commercial grades; calf carcasses were of mostly Good and Choice grades, while veal consisted of Commercial and Utility grades. Lamb was available in all four grades (Choice, Good, Commercial and Utility), with supplies moving very readily. Available supplies of pork cuts cleared early. And the market was fully steady to strong on very moderate amounts of smoked skinned hams and bacon.

Butter production for the country as a whole is still definitely on the down-grade, except in the West, where it is about 46 percent larger than last year at this time. Despite higher prices, San Francisco's retail sales are on the increase and are considerably larger than last year. Grade A (92 Score) butter is unchanged from last week at 82 cents per pound, but Grade B (90 Score) is up 2 cents at 77 cents per pound.

Top-grade eggs are in lighter supply on the wholesale market and higher priced, while small eggs are in liberal supply and little wanted. Grade "A" Large eggs are up 1 cent per dozen at 69 to 70½ cents per dozen; Mediums are 1 to 2 cents higher at 65 to 66½ cents per dozen; and Grade "B" Large eggs are 1 cent higher at 55 to 57½ cents per dozen. Grade "A" Smalls are unchanged at 44 to 46½ cents per dozen, making them a best buy — considering that Grade "A" Large eggs are roughly 25 cents per dozen higher.

Poultry prices are higher on almost all classes as the result of a good demand. Dressed young hen turkeys lead the way and are 6 to 7 cents per pound higher, because there are very few hen turkeys in storage at the present time and the cost of dressing fresh birds is high. Young toms are only 1 to 2 cents higher. Both live and dressed broilers and lightweight fryers are 2 cents per pound higher; colored fryers are 2 cents higher alive and 3 cents higher dressed. Leghorn fowl range from 1 to 3 cents higher, while colored fowl are down 1 to 2 cents per pound.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Sept. 19, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 17 — Green peppers retain their place at the top of best buy list this week and are joined by tomatoes which appear to be particularly plentiful and priced near the season's low.

Green onions have dropped in price substantially this week and can be listed as a fair buy along with celery and squash. Although not quite so plentiful, other fair buys include corn, cucumbers, lettuce, mushrooms, snap beans and lima beans.

Grapes are definitely astride the top of the best buy list of fresh fruits this week, but share the honor with small oranges and watermelons.

A wide variety of apples greets shoppers this week with a few red delicious — pride of the Northwest — beginning to show. Prices of the ordinary varieties are still too high to classify them in the best buy class, however. Bartlett pears are another fair buy, and supplies are relatively plentiful. Although toward the end of the season, cantaloups are still a fairly good buy along with second crop figs which are getting scarce, however.

Peaches can also be classified in the fair buy category, although the less desirable late varieties provide the bulk of offerings and prices do not compare with the season's low.

Grapefruit are higher in price this week. Lemons become more plentiful with larger supplies from the new crop and prices are somewhat lower. Plums and prunes have practically disappeared from the market.

Meat prices continued their climb on the local wholesale market during the past week with practically all classes registering at least a $1.00 per hundred gain. Fresh pork cuts led the way with advances over the previous week of fully $2.00 to $5.00. Cooler stocks of practically all classes were cleared daily, reflecting a comparatively strong demand coupled with relatively light offerings. Steer and heifer beef dominated offerings in this class. Good and Commercial grades of veal were in most plentiful supply, while quality of the majority of lamb and mutton offerings were in the Good and Choice classifications.

New seasonal highs on both spot and futures featured trading in butter on the local market last week, although a break in the Chicago futures market on Friday led to an unsettled local condition and a prediction by many that the upward spiraling of butter prices has stopped, at least for the present. Although sales were off 8½ percent from the previous week, they were still 18.9 percent above last year. Price on the local wholesale market advanced 4 cents during the week to 86 cents for 92 score.

The old economic law of supply and demand took another kicking last week as all classes of eggs, except Smalls, registered a 1 cent a dozen advance on the local wholesale market, in spite of the fact that receipts at country packing plants were 17 percent above last year's, and sales in retail outlets are 20 percent less than in 1946.

Somewhat lighter supplies of Leghorn Broilers and Fryers coupled with a strong demand boosted prices 1 cent to 2 cents per pound for both live and dressed chickens in the San Francisco wholesale market. Live Colored Fryers and Roasters were slightly easier, and Leghorn Fowl actually declined 1 cent per pound. The market for live turkeys was firmer and paying prices were 2 to 3 cents higher. Trading in dressed poultry was quite active after the Admission Day holiday interruption with strong demand and light supplies of Leghorn chickens forcing prices up 2 cents per pound. Leghorn Fowl were in large supply and weaker and turkeys held firm and unchanged.

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MAR 4 1948
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Sept. 26, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 23 -- Green Peppers still head the list of best fruit vegetable buys this week, but tomatoes, a running mate last week drop into the "fair buy" class to be replaced by squash in the sharing position on the top rung.

Besides tomatoes, which are still plentiful but slightly higher priced, the "fair buy" division includes a variety of favorites such as celery, corn on the cob, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, and sweet potatoes. Although still eligible for a "fair buy" listing, snap beans are higher priced this week.

Artichokes and mushrooms are moving into a higher price range, and carrots are at their highest point in several years. Cabbage prices are still relatively high, but somewhat lower than last week.

Best fruit buys this week are the Thompson Seedless, Ribier, Muscat, and Tokay varieties of grapes, closely followed by Jonathan apples and small oranges. Other varieties of apples including both local and Northwest Delicious and Newtons are also quite plentiful at very reasonable prices.

Fair buys include cantaloups, Bartlett pears and watermelons. Peaches and figs are fast disappearing from the market and current supplies are priced considerably above the season's low.

Meat prices continued their upward trend on the local wholesale market during the past week with smoked bacon leading the way at fully $3.00 to $4.00 higher after mid-week. Steer and cow beef advanced about $1.00, and although local plants operated some extra hours to catch up with the demand, coolers were completely cleared by week's end. A fairly liberal supply of veal sold at prices from about last week's level to $1.00 higher for Choice. Quality of fresh lamb and mutton was generally improved, and a $2.00 early advance was maintained. A strong demand for pork resulted in daily clearance at prices from $2.00 to $4.00 above last week.

Consumer resistance to high butter prices had a telling effect on the local wholesale market last week as Grade A, 92 Score declined 3 cents to close at 83 cents a pound. A further drop of 2 cents was recorded Monday of this week, but lower grades remained unchanged. Unsettled market conditions caused buyers to fall back on their inventories or operate hand-to-mouth. As a result, stocks accumulated, and with pressure to sell, prices declined. Storage holdings are near the 30-year low.

Although there was a noticeable shift in demand from large size top grade eggs to the smaller sizes in some market centers because of the price advantage, comparatively light supplies and a continuing heavy demand from retail outlets pushed wholesale prices upward 1 to 2 cents per dozen on the San Francisco market last week, and large Grade A and Grade AA eggs were still the favorites. The paradox of higher prices as against heavier receipts (plus 19%) at country shipping points and lighter sales (minus 11½%) compared with last year is noted again this week.

Liberal supplies of colored roasters and fryers with a resultant easing of wholesale prices featured this week's trading in both live and dressed poultry. The heavier birds were off about 1 cent per pound, but the drop was offset somewhat by a 1 cent increase in the wholesale price of Leghorn broilers which were in light supply. Turkeys continued in good demand, but very few fresh dressed young toms and hens are reaching the market, although some dressing plants have begun operation.

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